

Asbury Theological Seminary ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange

Syllabi

eCommons

1-1-2002

NT 799 Exegesis of Ephesians Fall 2002

Max Turner

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Turner, Max, "NT 799 Exegesis of Ephesians Fall 2002" (2002). *Syllabi*. Book 104.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/104>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

NT799 – Exegesis of Ephesians

Fall 2002

Final Form

Units of credit: 3 (in Fall 2002)

Prerequisites: NT500 (or NT501/502), NT520, and IBS—1.

NB This Course fulfils all the requirements of NT631 but has some additional objectives

Teacher: Max Turner

Office: SH406; Phone 2304

E-mail contact: max_turner@asburyseminary.edu

Catalogue Description: The course provides an in-depth critical, exegetical and theological study of what many regard as the crown of the Pauline epistles.

Student Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will have *demonstrated* they are able:

- To provide nuanced translation of portions of the set texts, and to comment on significant aspects of (for example) accident, lexical semantics, verbal aspect, syntax, word order and discourse structure.
- To compose coherent and well-formed exegetical studies on designated portions of the set text which show awareness of the main linguistic, structural, historical and exegetical-theological conclusions reached by modern scholars on the chosen portion, and the contribution of the passage to the understanding of the epistle as a whole.
- To elucidate cardinal theological themes of Ephesians, from co-text and context, and (a) to plot these themes within the ‘symbolic universe’ of the letter, (b) to explain the relationships of such themes to the ethical teaching of the letter, and (c) to relate these to the purpose(s) of the writing.
- To evaluate competing scholarly hypotheses and assess the evidence on which they are based.
- To undertake the second and third-mentioned tasks in such a way as to show some awareness of the contribution of the study of a passage to an understanding of: (a) Pauline studies, (b) more general biblical theology, and (c) constructive theology for today’s world.
- To work as a member of a team, with others on the course, sharing responsibilities for more detailed analysis of particular aspects of the text.

Required Textbooks (A) Top Priority

1. P.T. O’Brien, *The Letter to the Ephesians*, Leicester: Apollos, 1999

2. **Either** A. Lincoln, *Ephesians*, Dallas: Word, 1990 **Or** E. Best, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Ephesians* (ICC), Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1998.
3. J. Muddiman, *The Epistle to the Ephesians* London: Continuum, 2001 (=Black's NT Commentaries)

Required Textbooks (B) Lower Priority (i.e. students may be required to read substantial parts of these, but do not need to purchase them):

E. Best, *Essays on Ephesians*, Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1997

M. Kitchen, *Ephesians*, London: Routledge, 1994

A.T. Lincoln and A.J.M. Wedderburn, *The Theology of the Later Pauline Letters*, Cambridge: CUP, 1993.

Recommended Reading:

C.E. Arnold, *Ephesians: Power and Magic*, Cambridge: CUP, 1989

N.A. Dahl, *Studies in Ephesians*, Tübingen: Mohr, 2000

R.R. Jeal, *Integrating Theology and Ethics in Ephesians*, Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 2000

T. Moritz, *A Profound Mystery: The Use of the Old Testament in Ephesians*, Leiden: Brill, 1996

Course Requirements:

1. Registered attendance of at least 22 of the 26 classes.
2. Working through the Greek NT of the prescribed passage, making a provisional annotated translation
3. Reading of the commentaries by O'Brien + either Lincoln or Best on the set passage (and of any other specifically-signalled reading, e.g. key articles)
4. Making a provisional attempt to answer a few specified major exegetical questions
5. Active participation in the form of 'leading' the first hour of **one** session by (a) providing an exegetical paper of 6-8 pages (to be made available to all participants at least 2 seminary days before the class) on the prescribed text, (b) delegating any specific exegetical tasks to other members of the class, and (c) leading the discussion of your paper and exegetical reports from others. **This will constitute 10% of your assessment.**
6. Active participation in the form of responding to specific exegetical questions, as requested by the seminar leader.
7. A critical review of the distinctive aspects of Muddiman's commentary. **This will constitute 15% of your assessment.** (The review should be no longer than 1500 words, including footnotes, but excluding any bibliography)
8. A researched exegetical paper on a chosen section. (The section you choose may be shorter than those selected for class discussions, and should be taken from the other 'half' of the epistle from which you offered your class presentation. The essay should be no longer than 2000 words, including footnotes, but excluding bibliography). **This counting for 25% of the assessment**
9. A theological-exegetical paper on one of the following (to be handed in after the final examination):
 1. The implied purpose(s) of Ephesians (i.e. what can be inferred from the text of the letter concerning the purposes of this writing?).
 2. The relation of theology and ethics in Ephesians.

3. The development of the concept of ‘the body of Christ’ (and of its relationship to the ‘head’) in Ephesians.
 4. Israel and the Church in Ephesians
- The essay should be no longer than 3000 words, including footnotes, but excluding any bibliography. **It will count for 50% of the final assessment.**

Course Schedule:

The course will meet twice weekly, from 9.30-10.45 on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Beeson Centre Conference Room 223.

In addition to the commentaries, specific reading will be set for the classes: this to be allocated in the first session.

In what follows, ‘(a)’ represents the contents of the Tuesday session, ‘(b)’ that of the Thursday. Some of the sections might look small, but those will be ones that are absolutely packed with vital exegetical/theological content that cries out to be ‘decompressed’.

Week 1: (a) Introduction and (b) exegesis of the ‘prescript’ (Eph 1.1-2) – fascinating critical and theological issues.

Week 2: (a) Intro to E1.3-14 (a key to the letter) and detailed exegesis of 1.3-4; (b) main exegetical considerations in E1.5-8.

Week 3: (a) E1.9-10 (the programmatic heart of the letter) and (b) 1.13-14 (+ the disputed eschatology of the opening benediction: another key to the critical disputes about the letter).

Week 4: (a) E1.15-19 (exegesis and hermeneutics of Paul’s thanksgiving/prayer-report), and (b) Eph 1.20-23 (a climactic confession!).

Week 5: (a) E2.1-10 (co-session with the ascended Christ and the nature of salvation); (b) E2.11-13 (The Gentiles and Israel ‘before Christ’).

Week 6: (a) E2.14-18 (The restoration of Israel, including Gentiles, ‘in Christ’); (b) E2.19-22 (Gentiles with Jews as the Heavenly Temple).

Week 7: (a) E3.1-7 (the revelation of the central mystery to the apostles); (b) E3.8-14 (implications for Paul’s apostleship).

Week 8: (a) E3.14-21 (a visionary prayer for the church); (b) 4.1-6 (Beginning part II of Eph: Opening exhortation to a life that expresses new creation harmony +intro to relating theology and ethics)

Week 9: (a) E4.7-11 (Christ’s victory gifts and growth towards Christ); (b) E4.12-16 (Corporate growth towards Christ)

Week 10: (a) E4.17-5.2 (a call to put off the Old and clothe oneself with New Humanity revealed in Christ Jesus); (b) E5.3-14 (a parallel call to live out the transforming light that shines from Jesus)

Week 11: (a) E5.15-21 (a further call, to live out the wisdom the Spirit gives + Intro to the 'Household Rules' (b) E5.22-33 (marriage as a mirror of Christocentric cosmic harmony)

Week 12: (a) E6.10-23 (the Christian army and its true warfare); (b) 'Powers in Ephesians'.

Week 13: (a) + (b): handling theological themes in a wider canonical context. (There will be no preparation required for these classes.)

Week 14: Finals Week.

Schedule of Submission of Assessments

1. Your paper for your class presentation should be distributed by or at the beginning of the session before the one you lead.
2. Your researched exegetical section should be submitted on Thursday 21st November (you may complete it well before!)
3. The review of Muddiman's contribution should be submitted at 9.30 on Tuesday 3rd December.
4. The theological-exegetical essay should be submitted by 11 o'clock on Tuesday 10th December.